

Aspen Ranger District
806 W. Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3445—Voice
(970) 925-5277—Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



MONTEZUMA BASIN ROAD #102

Length: 6 miles one-way (9.7 km)

Difficulty: Difficult

Trail Use: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 9,728 feet (2965 m)

Ending Elevation: 12,600 feet (3840 m)

USGS Map(s): Hayden Peak, Pearl Pass

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: There is often snow on the road well into spring. The lower section of the road receives heavier use, especially on the weekends. This road was built to serve the Montezuma Mine and debris from the operation of the mine may be seen along the way.

ACCESS: Travel 1/2 mile west on Hwy. 82 from Aspen to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Castle Creek Road. There is parking at Ashcroft.

NARRATIVE: From Ashcroft to the Pine Creek Cookhouse the route is fairly flat. Be aware of cross-country skiers and be courteous of their tracks. At the “Y” intersection, travel right. From here the first 1/2 mile is fairly level, then the road begins to climb. There are some steep uphill and at the 1 1/2 mile mark there is a foot bridge where you will need to ford the stream. The road continues to climb through spruce groves crossing a vehicle bridge and immediately becoming steeper and more rugged. Three miles up the road the Mace cabin is passed on the right. A quarter miles past the cabin the road to Pearl Pass forks steeply to the left (refer to the Pearl Pass handout for more information on this route). At this fork bear right. Keeping right, the road soon climbs some steep, continuous switchbacks. This road is very narrow and rugged in some areas. The road ends at a parking area.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Motorized vehicles are not allowed within adjacent Wilderness Areas. Before you go out, check into available routes, their conditions, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply and the following rules:

- * **Respect private property.** Ask permission before entering.
- * **Be considerate** of other winter back-country travelers. Remember, we're all out to enjoy the outdoors.
- * **Avoid disturbing wild animals** by staying out of elk and deer wintering areas. Detour if you spot wildlife.
- * **Wilderness areas and Primitive areas are CLOSED to motorized recreational vehicles.** If in doubt, inquire at a local Forest Service office. Obey all signs.
- * **BEWARE OF AVALANCHES!** Avalanches may occur at any time during the winter. Avoid mountainous terrain after heavy snowfalls or prolonged periods of high wind. Stay on the windblown side of ridges. Avoid crossing steep hillsides and entering narrow, steep canyons.

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest suggests purchasing a topographical trail map prior to your snowmobile trip.